

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING SENATE BILL 76 (captioned "THE DOMESTIC ENERGY JOBS ACT")

WHEREAS, the recently introduced Senate Bill 76 would legalize the underground "injection of hydraulic fracturing fluid for the exploration or development of natural gas resources and water produced from subsurface geologic formations during the extraction of natural gas, condensate, or oil," opening North Carolina to wastewater not only from our own drilling operations, but from other states as well; and,

WHEREAS, hydraulic fracturing fluid contains chemicals, some of which may be toxic or carcinogenic; and water produced from subsurface geologic formations during the extraction of natural gas may contain brine, minerals, metals and dissolved solids; and,

WHEREAS, North Carolina law does not currently allow the underground injection of wastewater and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' 2012 study on hydraulic fracturing specifically recommended against the practice; and,

WHEREAS, the shale formations containing North Carolina's natural gas resource underlie twelve counties in central North Carolina, and any economic benefit from the extraction of natural gas in North Carolina would accrue to that part of the state; and,

WHEREAS, the geography in the central part of the state would not be suitable for deep well injection of wastewater, while the saline aquifers in the coastal plain could absorb the wastewater from hydraulic fracturing operations conducted in the central part of the state; and,

WHEREAS, an Environmental Protection Agency assessment of industrial waste injection sites nationwide classified western North Carolina as unfavorable under all conditions and coastal North Carolina as unsuitable under most conditions; and,

WHEREAS, the underground injection of wastewater in other states has led to earth tremors, aquifer contamination, and property damage on the surface from spills and accidents; and,

WHEREAS, the economy of Coastal North Carolina is dependent on tourism, and visitors are drawn to the North Carolina coast by the beauty of our natural environment and the recreation and enjoyment that it provides.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Sunset Beach urges the North Carolina General Assembly to reject the portion of Senate Bill 76 that legalizes the underground injection of hydraulic fracturing fluid for the exploration or development of natural gas resources and water produced from subsurface geologic formations during the extraction of natural gas, condensate, or oil.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Sunset Beach calls upon all other municipal and county governing bodies located in coastal North Carolina to pass similar resolutions to this one.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution are sent to our legislative delegation and to the leadership of the North Carolina General Assembly.

This the ____ day of _____, 2013.

Town of Sunset Beach

By: Mayor

ATTEST:

Town Clerk